

Insurance & Real Estate Committee  
Public Hearing: Thursday 3-2-17

TO: Chairmen Sen. Larson, Sen. Kelly and Rep. Scanlon and members of the  
Insurance and Real Estate Committee

FROM: Marco Henry  
President, The Yellow Cab Company

DATE: MARCH 2, 2017

**RE: HB 7126 – AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK  
COMPANIES**

The Yellow Cab was established in Connecticut in 1898 and is oldest taxi company in Connecticut. It has been providing “transportation for hire” for 119 years. It was Incorporated in 1921.. Yellow Cab Company has invested more than 5 million dollars into “state of art” dispatching equipment, vehicle cameras, g force sensors, back and side reader and gps locators. Last year we provide employment for over 100 residents. Paid over \$300,000.00 in taxes and fee to the state of Connecticut and town

As an environmentally sensitive corporation we have spent thousands of dollars updating our vehicles to clean burning natural gas thereby reducing pollution in Hartford, Bradley International Airport and other transportation centers. We have apps allowing customers to call taxicabs by phone or smartphones. With more than a 50% wheelchair accessible fleet, we are able to serve the special needs of passengers.

**The State of Connecticut has put in place a very elaborate set of regulations to protect the safety of the public we transport in our taxicabs. Four State agencies oversee our operations (Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Consumer Protection and State Insurance Department). This oversight has been designed to assure that Connecticut’s consumers are safely transported. Very detailed rules and regulations have been put into place to protect passengers for hire. Our vehicles, our drivers and fares are *strictly regulated* for a reason. Vehicle certification and inspection, collision insurance, driver background criminal and medical checks, car meter rates, etc. are but a few of the many protections which continue to be enforced to insure the safety and reliability of “for hire” transportation. We are required to provide transportation on a 24hr/365day schedule. We **must** accept all requests for transportation.**

Today we face an uncertain future due to the unfair competition of the TNC. The TNC say they are not a transportation company, but they provide exactly the same service that taxicab and livery provide but without the same regulations.

To be able to compete and survive we are asking the committee **to amend this proposal.** With the following changes.

- 1) Section 6 of the bill, stating that taxicab companies must divest themselves of their taxi business before seeking a TNC permit, be deleted.
- 2) Allow potential taxicab drivers a ninety-day grace period during which their "F" endorsement may be granted before securing fingerprinted background checks, which would then still be mandatory.
- 3) Remove fare rate setting, allowing taxicabs to pass savings from insurance alternatives onto customers.
- 4) Make removable rooftop lights the new identification requirement for taxicabs
- 5) Allow for registration of private vehicles so that the new insurance products would be available to taxicab companies or drivers who choose to utilize a part time model

The survivable of Yellow Cab depends on our be able to compete on a level playing field.  
Thank you for your time.

Marco Henry  
President The Yellow Cab Company